THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present 177 steam locos on Metre Gauge and 20 on Narrow Gauge are working on Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) Railways as a matter of policy have decided to replace steam locomotives with diesel/electric locomotives before the turn of century in a phased manner except in some sections of tourist importance where such locos will be an attraction.

Howrah Base Kitchen

4877. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanitation condition around the Howrah Base Kitchen is unhygienic;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to improve the condition/sanitation in and around Howrah Base Kitchen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The sanitation condition around the Howrah Base Kitchen are maintained in satisfactory and hygienic conditions. However, due to recent heavy rains there was blockage of adjacent drains resulting in temporary flooding of the area around Howrah Base Kitchen. Necessary steps were taken to clear the blockage and hygienic sanitary condition have been restored.

Supply of Coaches

4878. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coaches produced by different production units during the last three years, unit-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of coaches supplied to the Zonal Railways during the said mentioned period, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) whether less number of coaches were supplied to Eastern, South-Eastern and North-Eastern Frontier Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to increase the supply of coaches to the said Railway Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There are four Units manufacturing coaches in the country—two in Railway Sector, viz. Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory and two in Public Sector, viz. M/s Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. and M/s. Jessops & Company Ltd. The number of coaches produced by the different production Units during the last three years, unit-wise and year-wise are as under:

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Integral Coach Factory	1038	780	890
Rail Coach Factory	1025	775	690
Jessops and Company Ltd.	61	15	33
Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	375	9	139

(b) The details of category-wise coaches supplied to Zonal Railways are as under:

Railway	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	AC	Non-AC	S.P.	AC	Non-AC	S.P.	AC	Non-AC	S.P.
Central	7	130	116	13	145	62	55	141	82
Eastern	41	323	42	50	340	62	6	26	92
Northern	34	331	17	58	180	66	43	199	57
North Eastern	1	43	—	—	—	—	16	91	—
Northeast Frontier	2	22	—	—	10	—	15	83	6
Southern	29	462	15	36	138	9	41	286	39
South Central	7	224	—	17	65	—	21	149	18
South Eastern	5	363	40	—	27	50	29	244	42
Western	35	234	54	76	132	48	36	36	122

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Coaches have been supplied to Eastern, South Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways as required taking into account the total production planned during any year.

Development of Spices

4879. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had prepared any schemes for the development of spices in the country particularly in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) During 8th Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented in the country with an outlay of Rs. 125.00 crores. Of this, the allocation made for the State of Kerala is Rs. 60.21 crores. The details of the measures being implemented in Kerala for development of various spices are as follows:

1. Black Pepper

Production of rooted pepper cuttings; Rehabilitation of old pepper garden; Distribution of input kits; Adoption of plant protection measures against quick wilt disease; Laying out field demonstration plots; Promotion of cultivation as intercrop; and Area Expansion Programme.

2. Ginger

Production of nucleus seed material; Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots; Distribution of minikits of ginger; Plant protection demonstration programme; and Area expansion programme.

3. Turmeric

Production of nucleus seeds; Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots; Area Expansion programme; and Providing assistance for fabrication of polishing drums.

4. Chillies

Establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots; Distribution of minimits; and Establishment of demonstration plots of paprika.

5. Tree spices

Production and distribution of quality planting materials of Clove, Nutmeg grafts & Cinnamon/Cassia; and Establishment of tree spices demonstration plots.

6. General

Distribution of plant protection equipments; Financial assistance for setting up irrigation units; Promotion of soil conservation measures; and Staff and infrastructure.

[Translation]

Crime at New Delhi Railway Station

4880. SHRI O.P. JINDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Delhi mein Railway Station per choron ko police ka Sanrakshan', appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 8, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the gangs of thieves are active at the railway stations in Delhi under the protection of the Railway police;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb such incidents on the Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) No such news item has come to the notice of the Government. However, no organised gang of thieves is active at the Railway stations in Delhi under the protection of the Railway Police.

(d) The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent thefts at the Railway stations include, inter alia, intensification of patrolling and pasting of the photographs of known thieves at important places/platforms.

[English]

Watershed/Lakes

4881. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have selected some watershed/lakes as national watershed/lakes in the country;

(b) if so, names of watershed/lakes declared as national watershed/lakes;

(c) whether any steps are to be taken for their beautification;

(d) whether any amount has been allotted for the purpose for these watershed/lakes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (e) A National Lake